

in which

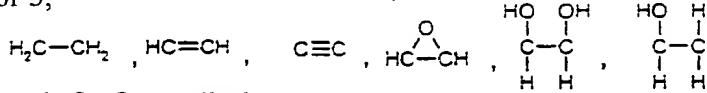
R^{1a} , R^{1b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl, or together a $-(CH_2)_m$ group with $m = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 ,

R^{2a} , R^{2b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_n$ group with $n = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 , whereby, if $-D-E-$ stands for $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or Y stands for an oxygen atom, R^{2a} and R^{2b} cannot be hydrogen or methyl,

R^3 means hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl,

R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_p$ group with $p = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 ,

$D-E$ means a group



R^5 means hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl,

R^6 , R^7 each mean a hydrogen atom, together an additional bond or an oxygen atom,

R^8 means hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl, which can all be substituted,

X means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{23} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α,ω -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^9 or a grouping $CR^{10}R^{11}$,

whereby

R^{23} stands for a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl radical,

R^9 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG^x ,

R^{10} , R^{11} are the same or different and stand for hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl radical or R^{10} and R^{11} together with the methylene carbon atom together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

Y means an oxygen atom or two hydrogen atoms,

Z means an oxygen atom or H/OR^{12} ,

whereby

R^{12} means hydrogen or a protective group PG^z .

2. (Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which Y , Z , R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} and R^{2b} all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

3. (Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which R³, R^{4a}, R^{4b}, D-E, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

4. (Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and X all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

5. (Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a}, R^{1b}, R^{2a}, R^{2b}, R³, R^{4a}, R^{4b}, D-E, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

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6. (Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a}, R^{1b}, R^{2a}, R^{2b}, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and X all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

7. (Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which R³, R^{4a}, R^{4b}, D-E, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and X all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

8. (Amended) A compound of formula I, namely

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (B),

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione ,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione ,

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(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7S,8R,9S,13Z,16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7S,8R,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

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(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-7-phenyl-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-phenyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-phenyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-7-Benzyl-4,8-dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

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(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-10-Benzyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-10-Benzyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,13-tetramethyl-9-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione,

(1S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-11-ine-2,6-dione

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(1S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-13-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-pentafluoroethyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

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(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-7,9,13-trimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-13-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-16-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-16-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-propyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-propyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

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(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-propyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

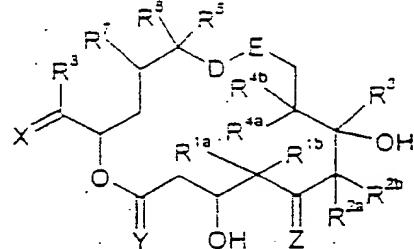
(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-en-6-one,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-9-one,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-9-one.

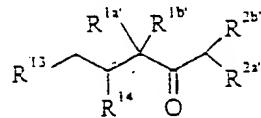
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9. (Amended) Process for the production of an epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1



in which

the substituents have the meanings that are indicated in formula I,

wherein a fragment of general formula A



A,

in which

R^{1a'}, R^{1b'}, R^{2a'} and R^{2b'} have the meanings already mentioned for R^{1a}, R^{1b}, R^{2a} and R^{2b},

R¹ means CH₂OR^{13a}, CH₂-Hal, CHO, CO₂R^{13b}, COHal,

R¹ means hydrogen, OR^{14a}, Hal, OSO₂R^{14b},

R^{13a} , R^{14a} mean hydrogen, SO_2 -alkyl, SO_2 -aryl, SO_2 -aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_n$ group or together a $CR^{15a}R^{15b}$ group,

R^{13b} , R^{14b} mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_1-C_{20} aralkyl,

R^{15a} , R^{15b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_q$ group,

Hal means halogen,

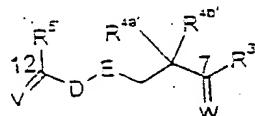
o means 2 to 4,

q means 3 to 6,

including all stereoisomers as well as their mixtures, and

free hydroxyl groups in R^{13} and R^{14} can be etherified or esterified, free carbonyl groups can be ketalized in A and R^{13} , converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free acid groups in A can be converted into their salts with bases,

is reacted with a fragment of general formula B



B

in which

R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} and R^5 have the meanings already mentioned for R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} and R^5 ,

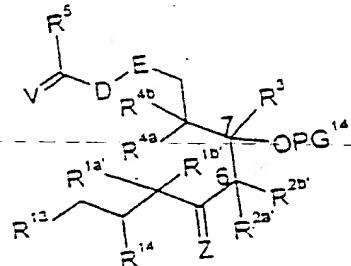
V means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{17} , a C_2-C_{10} alkylene- α,ω -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched or H/OR^{16} ,

W means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{19} , a C_2-C_{10} alkylene- α,ω -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched or H/OR^{18} ,

R^{16} , R^{18} , independently of one another, mean hydrogen or a protective group PG^1

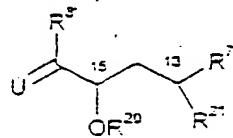
R^{17} , R^{19} , independently of one another, mean C_1-C_{20} alkyl,

to a partial fragment of general formula AB



AB,

in which $R^{1a'}$, $R^{1b'}$, $R^{2a'}$, $R^{2b'}$, R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , R^5 , R^{13} , R^{14} , D, E, V and Z have the meanings already mentioned, and PG^{14} represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG, and this partial fragment AB is reacted with a fragment of general formula C



in which

C

R^8 has the meaning already mentioned in general formula I for R^8 , and

R^7 means a hydrogen atom,

R^{20} means a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG^2 ,

R^{21} means a hydroxy group, halogen, a protected hydroxy group OPG^3 , a phosphonium halide radical $PPh_3^+Hal^-$ (Ph = phenyl; Hal = F, Cl, Br, I), a phosphonate radical $P(O)(OQ)_2$ (Q = C_1 - C_{10} alkyl or phenyl) or a phosphine oxide radical $P(O)Ph_2$ (Ph = phenyl),

U means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{23} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α,ω -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^9 or a grouping $CR^{10}R^{11}$,

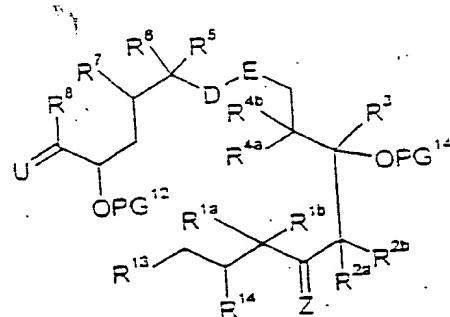
whereby

R^{23} stands for a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl radical,

R^9 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG^3 ,

R^{10} , R^{11} are the same or different and stand for hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl radical or R^{10} and R^{11} together with the methylene carbon atoms together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

to a partial fragment of general formula ABC



ABC,

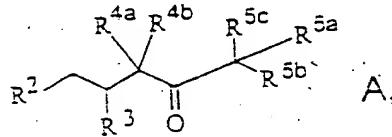
in which $R^{1a'}$, $R^{1b'}$, $R^{2a'}$, $R^{2b'}$, R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^{13} , R^{14} , D, E, U and Z have the meanings

already mentioned; and this partial fragment of general formula ABC is cyclized to an epothilone derivative of general formula I.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of general formula I according to claim 1, as well as a pharmaceutically compatible vehicle.

11. (Amended) A method for the production of pharmaceutical agents comprising mixing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically compatible vehicle.

12. (Amended) A process for the production of a compound of formula A



in which

R^2 means CH_2OR^{2a} , CHO , CO_2R^{2b} , COX ,

R^{2a} , R^{2b} mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl,

R^3 means hydrogen, OR^{3a} , X , OSO_2R^{3b} ,

R^{3a} means hydrogen or together with R^{2a} a $-(CH_2)_n$ group or a $CR^{6a}R^{6b}$ group,

R^{3b} means C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl,

X means halogen,

n means 2 to 4,

R^{6a} , R^{6b} are the same or different and mean C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl or together a $-(CH_2)_0$ group,

o means 3 to 6,

R^{6a} additionally can assume the meaning of hydrogen,

R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl

or together a $-(CH_2)_m$ group,

m means 2 to 5

R^{5a} , R^{5b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl

or together a $-(CH_2)_p$ group,

p means 2 to 5

R^{5c} means hydrogen,

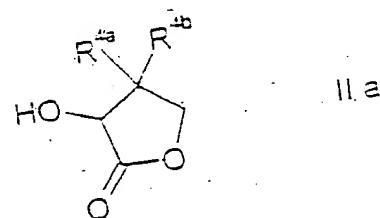
including all stereoisomers and mixtures thereof, and

free hydroxyl groups can be etherified or esterified in R^2 and R^3 , free carbonyl groups can

be ketalized in A and R^2 , converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free acid groups in A can

be converted into their salts with bases, wherein

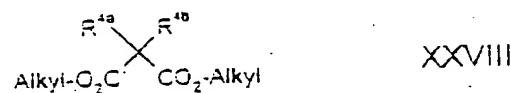
a) a pantolactone of formula IIa or



in which

R^{4a} and R^{4b} in each case are methyl groups or

b) a malonic acid dialkyl ester of formula XXVIII



in which

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 R^{4a} , R^{4b} , which have the meaning that is indicated in formula A, and alkyl, independently of one another, mean a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl to C_4 - C_{20} alkylcycloalkyl radical, is used as a starting product.
